

**Summary of the
ELAB PBMS Workgroup Teleconference
November 5, 1998**

The Performance Based Measurement Systems (PBMS) workgroup of the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) convened by teleconference on November 5, 1998, at 2:30 pm. The meeting was led by its chair, Mr. Jerry Parr. Action items are given in Attachment A. *The purpose of this meeting was to respond to questions on the draft key elements and to begin discussion of a case study on which to test the key elements.*

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Parr opened the meeting by introducing the invited EPA staff who had reviewed the key elements for clarity of purpose. He noted that the draft key elements are being prepared to forward to ELAB for their consideration, and the workgroup is concerned that the text be sufficiently clear so that it will be readily understandable. He noted that ELAB has scheduled meetings prior to the Fourth NELAC Interim Meeting, and the work of this workgroup will be on the agenda.

DISCUSSION OF KEY ELEMENTS

Mr. Parr a lively discussion of various aspects of the key elements. He noted that the workgroup's purpose for this meeting is to ensure that the current draft of the key elements are sufficiently clear to forward to ELAB, and that the revision to the content would be a topic of subsequent discussion. It was noted that introducing undocumented proprietary processes into use is not legally admissible, even though it might encourage the development of new technology. Following additional discussion and suggestions for clarifications, Mr. Parr noted that a goal of this workgroup is to help identify programmatic/process requirements that will be necessary and suitable to ensure a uniform approach to the acceptance of new or modified technology that is demonstrated to be scientifically sound. With the conclusion of this portion of the meeting, several of the EPA staff excused themselves.

CASE STUDY

The workgroup began review of its approach to developing a case study suitable for applying the key elements. This approach has quickly revealed the complexity of the issue, and several members offered their ideas to this effort. The issue of available and/or mandated methods for various matrix/analyte/concentration combinations was noted, particularly the difficulty where method performance has not (or cannot) be documented. The corresponding lack of validation data was also noted as a difficulty to be addressed under the PBMS approach.

It was agreed that smaller portions of the case study could be addressed by members (see action items) for discussion at the next call.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 1998.

Attachment A

**ACTION ITEMS
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No.	Action	Date to be Completed
1	J. Parr will review organics.	
2	Z. Grosser will review inorganics/metals.	
3	S. Labie will review Aother analytes@.	
4	J. Parr will forward notes on Measurement Quality Objectives to the workgroup members.	